

Regional Methods (RM) Program

Region 1 FY03-Funded RM Projects

Developing Methods for Biological Indicators in Transition Zones Between Aquatic Resources

Purpose: The overall goal of this project is to develop methods to compare indicators across aquatic resources, which will enable the states to monitor and assess all aquatic resource types and transition zones, thereby ensuring that the water sources adequately support aquatic life.

Relevance: While biological indicators have been developed and used successfully to assess individual aquatic resources such as streams, salt marshes, and estuaries, none have been developed to assess the waters which lie in the areas between saltwater and freshwater, the transition zone.

Description: Using information gathered through a cooperative effort conducted in the State of Rhode Island in the summer of 2000, a pilot study will be developed to identify the responses of benthic invertebrates and plants in streams, salt marshes, and estuaries. Field tests will be conducted to determine how existing and proposed biological indicators methods compare across aquatic resources.

Funding: This effort will be funded through an existing cooperative agreement with the National Research Council (NRC) Research Associateship Program.

Anticipated Product: A final report with recommended methods for assessing transition zones for 305(b) monitoring to protect aquatic life uses.

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